

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Allentown Post Office dedicated in honor of late
Mayor Joseph S. Daddona
Congressman Dent passed renaming bill, presides at ceremony

ALLENTOWN — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), along with U.S. Postal Service officials, today dedicated Allentown's historic center city post office in honor of the late Mayor Joseph S. Daddona.

Congressman Dent's bill to rename the 1930s-era United States Post Office at Fifth and Hamilton streets passed in the House on June 25, 2005 and was signed into law by President Bush on Nov. 22, 2005.

The renaming ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque formally recognizing the building's name as the Joseph S. Daddona Building. Presentations were also made to the late Mayor's widow, Mrs. Ann Daddona, by Congressman Dent, Allentown Postmaster Jeff Ruth and Mayor Ed Pawlowski.

Former Mayor Daddona died June 5, 2004 after battling cancer. In addition to his lengthy service in City Hall, Daddona was known as a tireless advocate of his city through his involvement in myriad civic organizations.

"It is appropriate to honor Mayor Daddona at this historic building, across the street from City Hall where he spent so much of his time and energy as an advocate for Allentown," Congressman Dent said.

Upon introducing the renaming bill last year, Congressman Dent made the following remarks on the House floor:

“Joseph S. Daddona was born in 1933, the son of Italian-American immigrants. He grew up in the Second Ward of Allentown in an ethnically diverse neighborhood. Too poor to attend college after he graduated from Allentown High School, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country during the Korean War.

After returning from overseas Daddona put himself through Lehigh University and received an engineering degree. Although he began his career as a planning engineer for the Western Electric Company, he found himself increasingly drawn to politics in the City of Allentown.

In the mid-1960s, as a member of the Allentown Jaycees, Daddona spearheaded the effort to create a Charter Study Commission for the city. He subsequently won a seat on that Commission, helped draft the city’s strong-mayor form of government, and later served a term as an Allentown City Councilman.

In 1973 Daddona was elected mayor for the first time. During his tenure Allentown was designated an All-American City, one of his proudest accomplishments. He stood for re-election in 1977 but lost by 121 votes. Undeterred, Daddona ran once more in 1981—and won. He triumphed again in 1985 and 1993, making him the longest serving mayor (along with Malcolm W. Gross) in the city’s history. During his tenure he established parks, fire stations, and high-rise apartments for the elderly. He also improved environmental conditions at the local sewage treatment facility and was responsible for numerous modifications to local traffic patterns.

Daddona was a relentless booster for the city of Allentown. He was constantly in touch with his constituents and worked tirelessly to solve neighborhood problems. He loved to show off the city during Super Sunday and Mayfair events. After his political career ended, he appeared on various local television and radio shows in part to extol the virtues of the city.

Daddona died after a long battle with cancer on June 5, 2004. He is survived by his wife Ann and three children.”

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